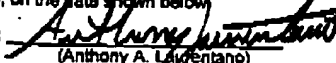


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300 at MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 12, 2006 Signature: 
(Anthony A. Larentano)

Docket No.: CTH-302ARCE
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Henri V. Azibert

Application No.: 10/791515

Confirmation No.: 2755

Filed: March 1, 2004

Art Unit: 3673

For: **BALANCED MECHANICAL SEAL
ASSEMBLY**

Examiner: Vishal Patel

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated July 12 2005 (Paper No. 070805), finally rejecting claims 1 and 4-7, and further to the Amendment and Response to the Final Office Action filed October 12, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.